

February 2012

Official Magazine

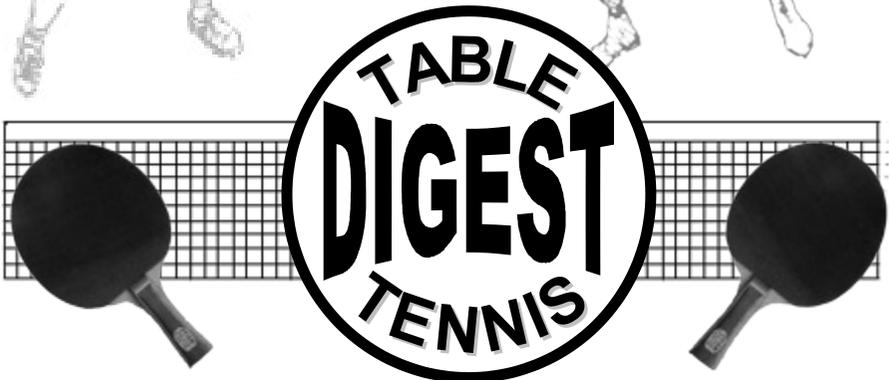
Vol 66

Of the

No. 2



SEASON 2011-2012



Web Site. <http://www.ldttl.co.uk>

# Editorial

Amazing how the top of each division has hardly changed since the last Digest (8 matches), same two teams at the top of Div.1, same two teams at the top of Div.2, but pushed down by a team that was in 7<sup>th</sup> place last Digest, same two teams at the top of Div.3. Div. 4's top is the same team, but 2<sup>nd</sup> spot has changed to a team which was 4<sup>th</sup> then, and the same three teams at the top in Div.5, so can all these teams keep up the pace

As most players will probably be aware by now, Liverpool is this year hosting the Liebherr Men's World Cup, a star occasion in World Table Tennis, to be held at the Echo Arena September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, seating arrangements and prices on page 22. As mentioned in the last Digest, local player, Tom Purcell Umpired the 2011 Final in Paris and has written his experiences of it, and uses it to explain the positive part of being an Umpire (pg. 16 & 17) Congratulations again to Tom, who has since been confirmed as an umpire for the Olympics, with Stuart Sherlock as a Deputy referee.

Stan Clarke and Karen Tonge MBE have been selected for Paralympics as umpires along with other North West Umpires Dave Goulden, Bob Williamson and Dave Cochrane, so well done to all these North West officials.

Paul Gittens has again been busy with his '11 Up' column, this time Wavertree Labour stalwart Roy Smith, page 18.

In the last few Digests our reporters have started to pick up on the number of youngsters playing for our various Clubs, over the last 10 years I was beginning to think that 'young' was someone under 30, but under 20 is now the norm with many now still at school. With that in mind I thought it would be good for the Digest to make up an article with tables to show how many youngsters, (under 20) we have in the L&DTTL, put them in age groups, no names, but somewhere during my enquiries, concern was voiced regards the Data Protection Act, and I discarded the idea, I still think it's a good and interesting idea, maybe someone could follow it up.

Still no feed-back from The Anfield Academy, disappointingly, I felt obliged to pass a few comments, page 21

## **Expansion for PremierLeague4Sport** 12th January 2012

Premier League 4 Sport held an event on Wednesday to celebrate the success of the project as well as its new plans for expansion and greater funding. More page 21

Welcome to Keith Bird from Christ the King Club who has joined the Management Committee; after many years of trying to get new blood to help run the affairs of the L&DTTL, maybe the floodgates will open with more volunteers coming forward.

## **More funding**

Every secondary school in England will have the opportunity to establish a community sports club, as part of a new strategy to encourage young people to play sport for life, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced today. The move is a key part of a £1 billion, five-year youth and community sport strategy. More page 20

Keep fit and play table tennis; that is the message from Steve Rowe, it is a message that in his home town is working like a dream and now he wants to spread the word to all four corners of the world.

Steve Rowe is the coach at the Wigan Table Tennis Club, a town better known for its milling history or coal mines, however recently more associated with the sporting endeavours of Wigan Athletic and Wigan Warriors.

However, now its table tennis that is catching the media's attention with Steve's new initiative. With his 30 years experience in the game, he has devised a programme which involves yoga, aerobics and table tennis to help with fitness in the female market.

To read more about the new scheme go to <http://aerobictabletennis.com/> and read some interesting international "leave a reply's", well done Steve, maybe this will get more women into table tennis! Steve also plays for Cadwa in the L&DTTL, maybe Steve could set up a similar scheme through Cadwa!! , certainly puts a new slant on 'girls in table tennis'.

Our Reporters have done the business again and given you a few comments on how things are going in your divisions, except for Div.1, your regular mentor Ian McElwee has been given 'time off' as he's in the middle of much investigation to find out and correct the medical problems he has at the moment, mind you Ian points out that he's becoming a bit adrift from Div. 1 reporting, not having played in it for quite a few years, and that I should start looking for a new Div. 1 reporter, so how about it you Div. 1 players, age no barrier!!

Ged Howard has been re-ranked up into the 4th Div. So is becoming a bit lost with the players playing in the 5th, but will carry on, (for now!), so Div. 5 players have a think about taking over the Div. 5 report.

Liverpool have a busy 'year' of table tennis ahead, all requiring volunteers in many shapes and qualities, so as you read through , if you feel you can assist in any way, contact those mentioned, or a member of the ManCom.

The first to come is our 'Closed' on Sunday March 11th, at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, with the Finals Night set for Monday March 19th at Cadwa, it's your tournament, support it, be there!

Page 13 carries an important letter, 'Why the League Ticks'

The 'Festival of Olympic Sport' at the Liverpool Echo Arena was an unqualified success and particularly, the League's table tennis stand. Close on 5000 sport fans filed into the Arena at 10am on Sunday January 22nd to witness demonstrations' and exhibitions' from many of the twenty six sports on show. With four tables provided by Greenbank's Mark Palmer, the league turned a tremendous showcase for the sport aided greatly by stints on the day from coaches' Jordyn Layfield, Keith Williams, Jonathan Taylor and George Lennon. They were joined by the ETTA NW Regional Dev. Officer and former GB number one and ETTA NW Regional Manager, Andrea Holt, an Olympian in Barcelona and Atlanta, together with ETTA coaches Brian Kean, a former Scotland international team mate of Liverpool Closed champion, John McNee, plus Lancashire county player/coach, Mike Moir. League secretary Mike Power and Rob Davies also weighed in from early morning until the finish at 5pm while Jonathan and Keith put on an exhibition in the large dedicated central court. They were joined by Jessica Whittingham (Huntsman Wood) and Joel Webb from Cadwa who were there to show what can be achieved by youngsters' who started playing at school and benefited following coaching from Keith Williams and Dave Graham. Hundreds of players' both young and old visited our stand to knock with each other while others faced a coach who offered help and advice. This was well received by the youngsters' with almost everyone leaving satisfied with their couple of minutes glory in front of mum and dad. The city council put in a lot of work into the event and as far as our stand was concerned, it was a huge success and thanks should go to all those who helped on the day. Mark and his Greenbank squad, which included Jack Hunter-Spivey and Tony Edge, turned in a display which impressed all present.



'PING is coming to Liverpool' In collaboration with Sport England, 'PingEngland' awarded this prestigious event to Liverpool City Council which entails 25 tables being installed in early June in a venture known as 'PING' which according to reports, was a 'huge success' when trialled in London, last year. The exact table locations are yet to be ascertained but, they'll be positioned in prime positions' where the maximum footfall is hoped for. Clayton Square near to the Radio City tower, Lime Street station, St. Georges Hall, the Pier Head, Liverpool One and China Town, are all likely sites. Some tables will be concrete while some fold away may be placed in locations where they can be rolled away at night and wheeled out the following day. Due to run for a month, the tables will be donated to the council when the scheme ends. **The organiser's hope the league will provide sufficient helpers' to assist at the various locations** - the bats and balls, provided free of charge, are expected to be left at the

table when finished with!! Further information will be announced in a month or so but, **anyone wishing to offer assistance, please contact Don Davies or Mike Power.**

Reigning Closed men's singles champion, Jonathan Taylor was thrilled to lift the Montague Burton trophy but, when added to the Wirral Closed title won last season, and in doing so, become the first man in twenty eight years, to hold both trophies at the same time - the last man to achieve the feat being Trevor Manning who played for Rafter's at the time. The former Barbados international, has another claim to table tennis fame, for he is almost certainly the last Liverpool champion to play Victor Barna, which came about when the five times men's world singles champion was on a coaching trip to the Island when Trevor was a youngster.

I was recently advised that former Wavertree Labour player, Peter Hurworth, had passed away, a doughty and resolute first division regular, Peter reached the Closed men's singles semi-finals on two occasions, the first in 1965 when losing to Bruce Cain, the runner-up to Kenny Roberts in the final. A year later, he reached the same stage before losing 19/21, 27/25, 19/21 to Peter D'Arcy who was beaten by Ron Jones (Liverpool YMCA) in the final. D'Arcy appeared in two more finals, beating the late George Smith in the 1969 final before going down to Blackburn's Dave Cottrell, 21/13, 13/21, 13/21 in the 1971 final. The longest surviving Closed men's singles champion is England international, Ralph Gunnion who collected the first of his three crowns in 1961.

While at Bootle YMCA recently for an MC meeting, I met a former Liverpool YMCA man, who will be known to older members' and those who played in the lower reaches of the league, Dennis Corkery, played for the Mount Pleasant club in the 60's and 70's with the late John Donnelly. Having not seen Dennis for more than twenty years, I've now seen him twice in less than a year, having met him at the funeral of George Smith, Dennis keeps in touch with the game as a supporter of Christ The King teams' and travels to both home and away matches.

I came across an interesting item while reading a report of the 1952 World Championships, held in Bombay, the first to be staged in Asia, when Japan, playing in their first international competition, claimed the men's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and the Women's team event, Corbillon Cup, amazingly, every one of the Japanese party returned home with a medal. Men's champion Hiroji Satoh, became the first to win the title using a thick sponge bat while two years later came the first all sponge men's final. At the end of the report (which will interest the Editor) as

he also carries out the role of the League's Cup competition Secretary, when it was revealed that the Iran Cup, awarded to the men's doubles champions, could not be presented to the Japanese winners' as it hadn't been returned by the 1951 champions, Bohumil Vana and Ivan Andreadis.

Tickets for the Men's World Cup in September (28th/30th) at the Echo Arena, go on sale shortly and as soon as the details are released, they'll be posted on the league's web site. However, there will be generous discounts for local league players' which will also include block bookings. The top fifteen world ranked players will automatically qualify plus four more intercontinental champions with matches taking place simultaneous on two tables. This event is a tremendous boost for North West sport and the biggest event in the city since the English Open was staged at Lewis's store in Renshaw Street in 1931. As with the PinG event, the league requires helpers' to take on various roles and anyone wishing to help in any way, please contact Mike Power or Don Davies.

This season's Fawley Closed championships, due to be played at Wavertree Tennis Centre on Sunday 11th March, has been staged there since the 1998/99 season, courtesy of Dick Johnson at no charge to the League. However, due to severe City Council financial constraints, this year the league has to pay for the use of the tennis centre from

Saturday afternoon until Monday lunch time, the weekend date is one given by the manager when no other paying event is planned. That it clashes with the Northern Vets' event in Blackpool, was unavoidable and in truth, of the 27 players who entered the 2011 Closed veteran event, few enter national veteran tournaments. As I'm sure most of you appreciate that obtaining a suitable tournament venue is difficult and if not at the tennis centre, I'm not sure where we'd play the ten events in a tournament first held in the 1926/27 season when just 31 men entered the only event on the programme.

If you thought the unbeaten playing record of Novak Djokovic over the past year was special, how about the record of Ma Long who remained unbeaten for 224 days in international competition, this included taking the titles in the China, Austrian and Swedish opens', while then coming out on top at the Pro Tour Grand Final in London at the end of 2011. Playing in the ITTF World Tour Slovenian Open men's final on January 29th 2012, he faced fellow Chinese compatriot Zhang Jike, ranked at one in the world, Ma Long took a 2-1 lead only to be overhauled when Zhang Jike forged a 3-2 lead, Ma, though, hit back to level matters to set up a thrilling seventh and final game, but, it was the world number who two edged home 11-7, to end Ma Long's remarkable winning streak.

---

---

## Division 1

## Editor

### Div. 1 Report

Ian Mc. Sends his apologies for giving this report a miss due to medical problems, at the present he is in the middle of many on- going tests to try to find out how and where to sort his problems, so we feel that a rest is in order.

I'm going to try and do a similar style report, one thing Ian mentioned is that it's a few years since he played in the first Div. and with so many new names coming in who are new to him, he has had to generalise a bit more, and as you can appreciate, I've never reached those dizzy heights, so bear with me!

Since the last Digest, the same two teams are neck and neck (I'm using week 14), Fords at 110, with a regular squad of Kevin, (11 matches) Mal (8) Terry (9) and Andy (13), they are 8 points clear of Crosby High 'B's, (yes 'B') Paul Hutchings (14), Aaron Beech (14) James Bartolo (8) Paul Cicchelli (2) and youngsters Jack Dempsey (2) and Alec Buchanan (1) helping out ( for the experience).

So with these two pulling away from the pack, I would think the eventual winner is there.

After relinquishing the Burton Cup to Jon Taylor after last season's fantastic closed final, Kevin D. must have been looking forward to meeting Police to take on young Jon again, and looking at the match card, 3-2 to Kevin, it must have been as good a match as the Final, Kevin won his other 2 singles visits to the table, Mal and Terry added 2 each for a 7-3 win, Jon won his other two singles and combined with Chris Ford to beat Kevin and Mal in the

Doubles, 3<sup>rd</sup> player for the Police was young Joe Mullins, finding his feet and going from strength to strength considering that he was playing No. 3 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Div. only two seasons ago. Funny how luck turns out, Fords turn up with only 2 players at BsM 'A', and gaining a 5-5 draw, Clare spoiling the party with 2 wins at the table, then a couple of weeks later, a strong team of Kevin, Terry and Andy entertain a weak BsM 1<sup>st</sup>, with only Ken J. winning 2, assisted by reserves from the 'D' & 'F' teams, good experience for Brian Crolley and Barry Davis. I suppose the critical match was when Ford 1<sup>st</sup> visited 2<sup>nd</sup> place Crosby High 'B' to 'make their mark' with a 7-3 win, Kevin got his 3 plus the doubles, Andy got 2 singles and with Kevin in a 5 set doubles, Terry getting the other point, Paul Hutchings beat Terry and Andy and James B. adding the 3<sup>rd</sup> off Terry, Aaron took all the flak, losing all, but pushing all to 4 sets. So with Mal making up the squad, other than playing short, or W/o's, should I start inscribing the Cup, (be nice to have another name on though).

Fords 'A' are struggling in the relegation zone, with 46 from 14, and just above the current bottom two, CtK 'A' and H.House who both have a game in hand, their main players are Michael Lunn and Graham Cleary, with Paul K. Tim W. and Bob H. 'filling' in, the team changes every week which doesn't help at this level, with a 5-5 draw at fellow strugglers H.H. and a good win over a 'weakened'

Police team, 7-3, has helped, (a bit!) the matches which are going to matter are those against fellow strugglers, and young Michael is into the 'studying' season, so is the writing on the wall.

Christ the King are in a similar position, their first team up near the top, and the 'A' team in the relegation zone, the first teams mainstay squad of Keith Bird, Omid Khaiyat, Joe Killoran, and Josha Matthewman (coming in for 3 good wins against a very weak replacement Cadwa team, but CtK wouldn't know that before!). In this last period of 7 weeks they've had two 10-0's, two 6-4's, two draws and one 6-4 loss, with only Keith Williams, Paul Hutchings and Stuart Mudie taking all 3 points, and with (young?) Joe Killoran, punching above his weight, may just stay above the chasing pack. The 'A' team on the other hand are struggling in the bottom group with 46 from 13, with the regular squad of Ahmed, Tony, Peter and Billy having had some good results in this period, a 7-3 win over Crosby 'A', a 6-4 win over BsM 'A', but unlucky to come up against Cadwa with Tomasz Rzeszotko making one of his few appearances, going down 6-4. Good news is that they have now played the top 3 teams, down 1-9 to Fords, 3-7 to Crosby, and 2-8 to their 1<sup>st</sup> team, Tony getting one off Omid and Ahmed one off Joe, so can we say "the future looks bright", maybe.

Cadwa are also in the relegation group, 48 from 13, rarely getting their best team out, but when doing so (when Graeme plays up), good wins over Bootle YM 9-1 (without Keith) and 8-2 over Fords 'A' with Tomasz, George and Graeme, a 7-3 win over a 2 man BsM team gave a lift, unfortunately Ken J. was one of the two. But when they gave a "virtual w/o" to CtK by turning out players from the 'B' 'C' & 'D' teams to save the cost, hopefully some of those lost points aren't needed in April.

There's only 12 points between the two BsM teams, the first team has 77 from 14 and the 'A' team 65 from 14, mind you the first team of Gary, Ken and Steve struggle to keep together, with Gary only making 8 appearances and Steve 6, but with Mr. ever-present K.J. having played in every match to date, and pulling in 16 of a possible 21 points from the last 7 matches alone, the future would have looked a bit bleak, the only 2 matches when Gary, Ken and Steve had been together in the last 7 matches, they won both 7-3, only losing 3 to Keith W. at BYM, and Gary losing to Mike Lunn, Steve to Graham Cleary and the doubles to Fords 'A', with a regular team they could have been pushing the top teams, but in reality they have had use 13 assists from lower divisions.

On the other hand newly promote BsM 'A' s Dave Roberts, Clare Peers and Tony Kendal have only been 'separated' once during the last 8 matches, with Andy Cheung helping out once with one win. Best matches were a 7-3 win over 2 man Harold House, and a 5-5 draw against 2 man Fords, Clare beating Mal and Andy, so mid table and not a worry.

Harold House are really struggling with only 35 from 13, with many thanks to Bootle YM for a 10 point w/o, another team finding it impossible to get a regular team, and when the No. 1 has only made one appearance, it does make life awkward, only Kevin Lewis making regular appearances having turned out 11 times, with a supporting cast of Ken C. 5, John H. 2, and Steve W. 6, plus 10 from lower divisions. On paper, the draw with Ford 'A' was probably their best performance, with 2 each from Ken C. and Kevin L. plus the doubles, but from an impartial view, I would think that we have our first candidate for the drop and should use the remaining matches practicing for a return after next season, (if a regular squad can be found!).

M. Police, just above halfway with 67 from 13, Jon Taylor being the anchor man, with 10 matches under his belt, assisted by Chris Ford (4), John Hope (7), and an ever improving young Joe Mullin (9). After the euphoria of winning the Closed, life for Jon has got a bit down to earth, losing to Kevin Dolder; and Paul Hutchings when they turned up at Crosby 'B' with only Jon and Geoff Pye, to go down 9-1, but I would say only temporary set backs on Jon's road to top T.T.

Bootle YM with 65 from 14 are another team which struggles to get a regular team, and except for Keith W's 15 singles and 3 doubles points from his last 5 matches, BYM may have been showing a bit more concern over their spot. Supporting cast for Keith has been 4 from Wayne Percival, sidelined through injury for the last 5 weeks, 3 from Barry Elliot, 8 from James Eaton, and 7 from young Matt McCormick, improving all the time to record a good win over Gemma Lloyd in week 15, another face for the future.

Crosby High with 3 teams in the Div. all doing well, 1<sup>st</sup> team 88 from 14, 'A' team with 52 from 14, and wait for it, the 'B' team with 89 from 14, is that the twist in the tail!, 3 teams that play regularly together. The first team is ably led by Stewart Mudie (10) with 20 singles wins from his last 7 matches, plus 6 doubles thrown in, his only loss in this period to Kevin Dolder in 4, ably assisted by Jamie Hewitt (11), Cherith Graham (10), and Robert Barker (10) with only one assist from lower down, what we would call a settled team, but that's what's noticeable about Crosby's 3 teams, continuity!. Not to be forgotten are the points added by Jamie (6) Cherith (4) and Robert Barker (9) over the same 7 matches, to keep them near the top.

Crosby 'A' is holding its own just below halfway, with a regular Rob Wylie, Gavin and Gemma Lloyd turning out most weeks, with assists from Paul Cicchelli (1), Alec Buchanan (2) and Will Roberts (3), only win during the last 7 matches was a 6-4 win over Ford 'A' with Paul Cicchelli winning his 3, Rob and Gavin adding one each and a doubles, they went down 2-8 against their 'B' team, Gavin and Gemma both beating James Bartolo.

Crosby 'B' are second from top, 13 points clear of their next challenger, a squad of 4 regulars, Paul Hutchings (14), Aaron Beech (14), James Bartolo (8), Paul Cicchelli (2)

and 2 assists from lower down. Mainstay Paul H. has pulled 19 out of the last 21 points, his best win must be his 3-1 win over Tomasz Rzeszotko in a 7-3 win over Cadwa, and only losing to Kevin D. and Keith W. in the last 7 matches. Last season the division finished, Fords top, Crosby 'B', Crosby 1<sup>st</sup>, Bath St. M, and Crosby 'A', this season the 'A's' out of it, CtK. has squeezed in between the two Crosby teams, can CtK keep them apart?.

Strange why a 'B' team can persistently keep above a 1<sup>st</sup> team, useful though!!

Well that's my attempt at reporting something Ian Mc. does in his stride, I'm sure everyone sends Ian their best wishes for a quick recovery and is soon back to norm.

Can I repeat that Ian has mentioned that even though he has done the Div. 1 report for a number of years since he actually played in it, and the names are changing with so many new youngsters making the grade, he feels that to do justice to all these new players requires a reporter who plays in the Div. so we will be looking for a new Div 1 reporter soon, please think about it, age and experience not the main criteria.

Roly Wright

---

---

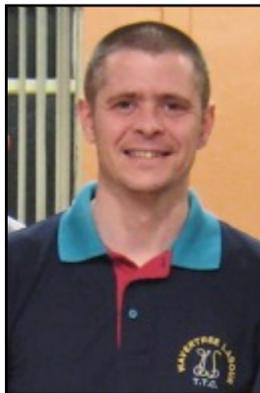
## Division 2

## Paul Banks

I seem to remember saying something about focusing on the younger players in the division for this seasons batch of notes - well with such an interesting season playing itself out, this framework may have to be revised somewhat.

So let's look at this interesting season; as it stands the top five teams all have a chance of winning the division; the Police in at number six have played one more than CADWA A who are only a point behind them and if CADWA pull out a big win then they are back up with the top five.

Crosby High C have a game in hand to pull themselves out of the drop zone but things are looking a bit desperate for Wavertree A and B.



YMCA - it's a funny old game Saint - and no mistake.

### Bootle YMCA A

Currently one point behind BSM B is Bootle YMCA A. another fairly consistent line up with Alan Chase, Ted Birch and John Higham, although young Joe Pilkington has also played and made sure that he bagged his three at Marconi over Bob Edwards, Adrian Bramham and Frank McCann. The two top games for Bootle have been their 5-5 draw with Wavertree Labour; Alan, Ted, Roy and Paul all winning two on the night and their 10-0 over Harold House with the Bootle team

awarding John Higham the 'Man of the Match' award for his efforts.

### Wavertree Labour

Wavertree have managed to haul themselves up the table by hanging on to Tom Hill's coat tails, Tom as the most valuable player, is having a great first season at Wavertree. Tom has had some close games, some not so close games but predominantly successful games; selected highlights include beating Roy Adams and Dave Harse 11-9 in the fifth, Ricky Brown 11-6 in the fifth and a great game with Graeme Black where Tom edged it 16-14 in the fourth. Tom's game with Peter Walsh Jr was another such epic that didn't go Tom's way losing it 11-9 in the fifth. Roy Smith has pitched in with a very respectable 70 odd % which is why the team are currently where they are.

### Bath Street Marine B

Bath Street have had a mixed bag of wins a draw and two losses in this second quarter of the season, the team has been a constant of Ricky Brown, Dermot Tierney and Fred Bainbridge and they have all had good nights and not so good nights, for example; Ricky (OS) Brown losing all three at Marconi A, Dermot winning all three at Wavertree Labour A, Fred being the only player to lose three at Harold House and the only player to win all three at Bootle

### Christ The King B

Four points behind Bootle YMCA but with a game in hand over the top three- a good win with their game in hand and they are top. The main players for CTK B are Dave Tagg, Peter Taylor, Peter Walsh Jr and Joshua Matthewman, for this quarter CTK B have had three wins, three losses and one draw - so a re-evaluation of position and desired objective may be worth discussing at the CTK board meeting in order to fully realise their market potential.

### Marconi

Three points behind CTK B and also with a game in hand is that of Marconi - again a good win with the spare and they are also right back in it. The team is Bob Edwards, Ray Jackson, Chris Spedding and Adrian Bramham and with four wins, two losses and one draw for the quarter you have to feel that they are good for moving up a few places, Chris Spedding may have just kept them in the race by winning his three in a tense derby match, but we don't want to speak to soon as he may ruin it all for his team mates later on in the season!! Two stand out wins for Marconi include the 7-3 win over division leaders

Wavertree and an 8-2 win over the Police which may have ended differently if Stevie G hadn't have gotten injured, however it is still noteworthy for what must be the only time that Paul Gittins has lost three in one night.

### Merseyside Police A

MPA is the wild card in the situation - the secret police - acting covertly to affect outcomes. What I mean is that they are 12 points behind second place having played the same amount of games - so it would be a bit of a stretch (let's not rule things out though, as stranger things have happened) for the Police to challenge for promotion and yet the strength of their team could win most matches - this is supported by Jon Dyson, Paul and Steve Gittins beating CTK B 6-4 (Paul unbeaten).

### CADWA A

Cadwa are in a better position than the Police with a game in hand - however a title push will take quite a bit of help from the other teams at the top, the team of Graeme Black, Paul Evans and Mike Power have recorded three wins, one draw and one loss for this quarter. Top man Graeme Black has not lost many; Wavertree arrive and subsequently take two from him, prompting Mike Power to note "not often you see Graeme lose 2 - the result (9-1) brought us down to earth that's for sure".

### Marconi A

Pretty even return for the quarter for the second Marconi team, Frank McCann, Peter Wass, Ian Wensley and the man with the Friday night fever, Andy Lloyd make up the team that has recorded two wins, one draw and two losses, best win of the quarter is the 6-4 win over title challengers CTK B - Frank and Andy both taking two on the night.

### Harold House A

Harold House are another confusing team, whether this is down to availability etc - we don't know, what we do know is that their results are quite a mixed bag, the team has included Steve Whalley, Alec Bryce, John Hughes and Rod Mcpherson. A draw with CTK B, a 6-4 win over second place BSM B, 7-3 win over Marconi A, 8-2 win over Marconi and a 6-4 win over Wavertree A show the teams potential, but 7-3 and 10-0 defeats are the reason for their current position.

### Crosby High C

Crosby High with a game in hand have the potential of leapfrogging up to a more central position in the division and with Dave Evans beating nearly everyone it is a distinct possibility. I know in the past I have let my DE fanclub membership show, so in order to redress this I need to mention the fruitless night out at CTK B, where on the same night young Will Roberts had a great win over Dave Tagg and Sylvia was the only Crosby player to beat Josha Matthewman. Jack Dempsey hasn't figured as much in the team this quarter but did record another clean sheet - this time against Wavertree Labour B.

### Wavertree Labour A

On the same amount of points as Crosby High but having played a game extra - things aren't looking too great for Wavertree A, Roy Adams is winning an average of two per match but his team mates, Dave Harse, John Rowan and Mendle Williams are struggling to match him. All is not lost as it is only half way through the season and a lot of those lost matches were pretty close??

### Wavertree Labour B

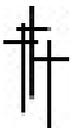
I know how this feels - not enough return for expended energy, and little victories being all you can have. Wavertree's third team in division 2 are really up against it but it is the little victories that keep you going. WLB's best result amongst a number of 10-0 losses was the 6-4 loss at Merseyside Police, Dong Xia beat Jon Dyson and Sam Gittins, Lee Farley also beat Jon Dyson and they also managed a fifth set win in the doubles.

So there you go; half way there - which team will maintain its consistency? Is it going to be tight to the last or is it going to fragment?

Best wishes for the next quarter.

Paul Banks  
Wavertree Labour

	<p>The passing of Fred Biggs was published in the last Digest, but we didn't have a photo in time. Fred's brother, Alan supplied the Obituary for that Digest. Thanks to Fred's son in law for recently supplying this photo</p>
<p>Fred passed away on 20 June 2011 age 91 years. Regards Peter Scott (Fred's son-in-law)</p>	

<p>Don Davies mentions in his N&amp;E column of the passing of ex. Wavertree Labour player of the 60's, Peter Hurworth, if anyone can provide me with more information, an Obituary will be in the next Digest.</p>	
---	--

## Match Week 8

Police B v Bath St. E, looks a strongly contested match with honours even 5-5, Rob Midgley v Graham Turner the game going to 5 sets with Graham coming out on top 5-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set in match 9, Bath St. winning the doubles in game 10 to claim the draw.

Bootle YM v Arriva, another strongly contested match 5-5 with 3 games going to 5 sets, Bert Rivers losing out to Derek Scotland who lost out to Eddie Preston along with Harry Hughes, Shak Malik being MOTM, winning all 3 of his singles games.

CADWA C v CADWA B As expected an easy win for the B team 2-8 only Ian Burrows going to 5 sets against Paul Webb, winning out 11-9 in the final set. Good wins for Josef Koudelik winning 2 out of his 3 singles for the C team.

Marconi B v Bath St D, a good win for Marconi 7-3, only Brian winning 2 games and Danny 1 for their 3 points, both Dave and Andy had 2 close games, going to 5 sets but both losing out in their 5<sup>th</sup> sets.

Bath St C v Maghull A, a good 7-3 win for Maghull, match of the night was Dave Stoddern, v Tom Miller with Tom coming out on top 16/18 in the 5<sup>th</sup>

H.H. C v Police C, a good win for HH 8-2 with only Rod losing out to Geoff Pye and Steve Wearden losing out to Len Dyson.

## Week 9

Police C v Bath St C, a good result for the Police, 5-5, with Paula being WOTM winning all 3 singles along with the doubles, not bad for her first match in the 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

CADWA B v Bootle YM A, a good away win for Bootle 8-2, only Richie Winkle dropping 2 games, Shak Malik MOTM for Bootle, winning all 4 of his games, Eddy Preston also won all his singles with a 5 set cracker against G Higham being his last match.

Marconi B v Maghull A, an easy win for Marconi 7-3, with Tony being their MOTM winning all 3 singles, Phil Christie for Maghull also played well winning 2 of his games.

Arriva v Maghull, a close run match, with 5 games going to 5 sets with Arriva coming out on top 6-4 Derek Scotland MOTM for Arriva winning all his 3 singles.

Bath St. D v CADWA C, a really tight match with all game scores being close, 3 of the games going to 5 sets with CADWA coming out on top 4-6 MOTM for CADWA was Josef Koudelik winning his 3 singles.

BS marine E v Harold House C, a good win for H.H. 7-3, good play by Graham Turner beating Rod Mc Pherson in 5 sets also winning the doubles in 5 partnered with Ted Cramsie.

## Match Week 10

Maghull v CADWA B, a strong win by Maghull 8-2, with Peter Holmes and John McLoughlin dropping 1 game each,



MOTM Alan Jones winning his 3 singles along with the doubles partnered by Peter Holmes.

Police B v Arriva, a good win for the Police 7-3, with 4 matches going to 5 sets and the police winning 3 of them and Arriva winning only 1, it could have been a win for Arriva, a tighter match than the final score shows.

CADWA C v Maghull A, another tight match with CADWA coming out on top 6-4, 2 of the games going to 5 sets, CADWA winning both in tightly contested 5<sup>th</sup> sets, MOTM Josef for CADWA winning his 3 singles.

Marconi B v Police C, a close run match with 4 of the games going to 5 sets, Marconi winning 3 of them. MOTM John McCann winning his 3 singles along with the doubles.

Bootle YM B v Bath St Marine D, a good win by Bootle 7-3, Shak Malik again winning his 3 singles, MOTM again. Bert Rivers came close to winning his 3 singles but lost out to Andy Cheung in 5.

Bath St Marine C v Harold House C, a strong win by Bath St. 8-2, only 1 match going to 5 which Bath St won. MOTM for Bath St. was Colin Winning all 3 singles along with the doubles.

## Match Week 11

CADWA B v Police B, an easy win for CADWA 8-2 as the police were 1 player short Joel Webb MOTM for CADWA, the only player not to lose a game.

Maghull A v Bootle YM B, a hard contested match with honours even 5-5. MOTM Shakil Malik for Bootle winning his 3 singles. Harold House B v Marconi B, honours even 5-5

Bath St Marine E v Bath St. Marine C, as expected a 9-1 win for the C team, my MOTM is Dave Stodden for the E team saving a white wash by winning against Graham Turner, in the 5 set 14/12.

Bath St Marine D v Maghull, a keenly contested match finishing 5-5, reported by Brian that all played excellent table Tennis, Mal Kent v Andy Cheung was a classic game, Mal just winning in 5, also Andy Cheung v Peter Holmes, Andy winning in 5

Police C v CADWA C, a good win for the Police 6-4, Paula Adamson taking the match honours winning her 3 single games, Josef Koudelik took her to 5 sets but Paula came out 11/5 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Match Week 12

Maghull v Maghull A, a good win by the A team 4-6 John Langton MOTM winning all 4 games he played in. all in all a strongly contested match with 4 games going to 5 sets .Marconi B v Bath St. Marine, honours even in this match 5-5 With 3 games going to 5 sets and the 5<sup>th</sup> set of each game being close, the match could have gone either way.

CADWA C v Harold House C, an easy win for H.H. 2-8, Josef Koudelik had a hard won game against Peter Findlater

winning 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> for 1 point and won a 5 set doubles with his partner Paul Webb 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bootle YM B v Police C, a good 5-5 draw once again Shak Malik pulling Bootle through, winning all his 4 games, played MOTM yet again.

Arriva v Bath St. Marine E, a close match with Arriva winning 6-4, Derek Scotland MOTM for Arriva winning all 4 games he played.

### Match Week 13

Bath St C v CADWA C, an easy win for Bath St. 8-2, Rob and Josef had a close game going to 5, Rob winning 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, MOTM Rob Peat winning all his singles.

BS Marine E v Marconi B, a strongly contested draw, with MOTM being Andrew Owens winning his 3 singles.

Police C v Maghull, a good win for Maghull 2-8 with Len Dyson and Tom Lynch saving the day for the Police. Peter Homes and John McGloughlin did a stirring job for Maghull, both winning all their 3 singles, joint MOTM.

CADWA B v Ariva NW, looks a tight match 6-4, Ian Lunt being MOTM for CADWA winning all his singles beating both Derek and Harry for the first time.

Harold House v Bootle YM B, a good win for HH 6-4, Shakil Malik holding up the YM winning his 3 singles, MOTM for the YM, supported by Eddie Preston beating Colin Singleton in 4 sets, a good win for Eddie.

Maghull A v Police B, a good win for Maghull 6-4, in a tight match with 5 games going to 5 sets, Rod Bulmer being MOTM for Maghull winning his 3 singles.

### Match Week 14

B.S. Marine E v CADWA B, a strong win for CADWA 3-7 with MOTM being Ian Burrows winning his 3 singles for CADWA. Ted Cramsie played well for Marine picking up 2 of his 3 games both in 4 sets.

Bath St Marine D v Arriva NW. a strongly contested match ending 6-4 for Marine with 4 games going the distance to 5 sets, match of the night was Derek Scotland against Mal Kent 6-10 down in the 5<sup>th</sup> but went on to win, MOTM Bath St. C v Bootle YM B, a strong win for Bath St 7-3, only Shakil Malik winning for Bootle taking all his 3 singles, MOTM for Bootle.

Marconi v CADWA C, a very easy 10-0 win for Marconi, the whole team looked to be on form

Harold House C v Maghull, a strong win for Harold House 8-2 only John McGloughlin and Peter Homes offering any resistance, winning 1 game apiece.

Police C v Police B, a good win by the B team 9-1, only John Moor offering any resistance, winning 1 to save a white wash.

### Match Week 15

Arriva v Maghull A, a good 7-3 win for Arriva, Derek Scotland MOTM for Arriva winning all 3 of his singles, a 5 set win in the doubles was a good win for Maghull 12/14 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

CADWA C v Bath St Marine E, a close match 6-4 With Josef for CADWA being the real difference between the teams, winning all 3 singles along with the doubles.

Maghull v Bath St C, a 10-0 win for Bath St. some close games played, but Bath St. were far too strong on the night.

Police B v Harold House C, a bad night for the Police going down 2-8 at home, only Rob Midgley winning a singles for the police, along with the Police winning a 5 set doubles.

Bootle YM B v Marconi B, another close match with Bootle coming out on top 6-4, once again Shakil Malik winning all his 3 singles, MOTM for Bootle, ably backed up by Berty Rivers winning 2, Mike Hughes, back playing in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, managed to win 1 11-8 against Russell, in a very close 5 setter.

---

---

## Division 4

## Doug Baker

With the corner turned and on the back 13 (to twist a golf analogy) it's fair to say that what you see now on the league tables is pretty much what you see at the end of the season. In this third a few personal records have been dented as averages percentages have been hard to maintain.

### Wavertree Labour 'C'

"Top of the Third Ma", will be the cry from Stan that rolls down Sheil Road, still undefeated, the only slip up this period being a draw with lowly **Maghull 'B'** (Maghull rearranged the game and Neil wasn't available), surely on a massive 105 points at the half way stage the league title is as good as theirs, no one is even close. That chap in the shed who gets called upon at the Open can get engraving now. Their strongest team was out in the derby with the 'E' team, the strength they had was in attitude, because despite the 8-2 scoreline, the C team won 5 of the games in the 5<sup>th</sup>,



Paul Morgan bested Colin Fyles 13/11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, but Colin at least beat Neil in 5, shame for a hard working Andy Bird to lose to the Jennings's in the same manner, in 5. Fine victory 9-1 over **Arriva NW'A**, only Kristof's win v Paul M prevented the whitewash, sub Alf Perry was superb beating Brian Hornby 3-1 (3<sup>rd</sup> 13/11 & 4<sup>th</sup> 12/10), Arriva fielded a newbie who hadn't been registered, Doh! A 7-3 over rivals **BSM'F** was another significant win, Neil came back to beat Barry in 5, who beat Paul Morgan in 3, Ned also put up a fight, not enough to trouble Paul Jennings but he defeated Neil in 3 with two from deuce,

Paul Morgan also lost to Billy in another close 5 gamer, Rob was too good for Billy & Albert.

### Sefton Park

At the time of the last report they too were undefeated, with just one draw, now they have 2 draws and 2 defeats, still

second, though the 9 point gap has opened up to a whooping 24 points. So, now they can give up on the Championship and focus on not letting promotion slip as there are at least 3 teams within striking distance.

Mike and Derek both beat **Arriva's** Kristof, Dave lost to Pawel & Brian, who also beat Ray for 3 points, though Ray had a creditable win over wily Wacek, loss of Mr Traynor has been a blow, and started at the league leaders, so, 4-6 was a good result. Rob Puddifer won both his games 11/8 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Paul Morgan & Rob Barker. Mr Morgan also lost to Mike Perry, best of all Peter Tod beat Neil in 3. With reserves out it was a good draw with **Linacre**, Mike beat both the Harry's and Robbie beat Mr Reeve and Mr Charcenko, ditto the 7-3 win over **Maghull'C'** where Sue just beat Mike 15/13 in't 5<sup>th</sup> and Ray lost to her and Janette (in 5).

### Bath St Marine F

Dave, Barry, Ned, Billy & Colin are big movers up from 6<sup>th</sup> to third with a string of wins, 10-0 over BYMCA'C' (3 to 5), 7-3 over WavLab'D', 9-1 over Maghull'B', 6-4 versus SeftonPark in a clash of promotion contenders, Barry beat Mike & Dave, and Ned just lost to Mike, Peter Tod won his two over Billy and Colin. 7-3 away at WavLab'E', Barry firstly beat Andy, then stayed on the table to just beat young John Williams in 5 after John had had a tremendous comeback win over Billy, Ned lost to Andy & Stan, but strength from Colin and in the doubles garnered victory. Defeat at Arriva'A', but Billy bested Brian Hornby and just beat Wacek over 5, could've been a draw if Ned had been granted a bit more luck, 11/13 in 5 to Pawel.

### Huntsman Wood

Holding their own, just off the pace, with each of the main players averaging at least 50%, as new babes in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division wood they are doing really well, collectively and individually. Exemplified by a good team effort to draw with **CADWA'D'** as everyone won one. Joe had a fine 5 game win over Ian Laird (after losing the 2<sup>nd</sup> 20/22), Paul was 2 up on Ian before he stepped up, but then beat Steve Lennon, Lee beat Ged and pushed Grahame to 5, Steve Rees started the night by beating Steve and finished just losing out to Ged in 5, **CADWA** managed to hang in for a draw winning 5 of the 7 sets that went to a 5<sup>th</sup> game. There then followed big wins, 10-0 over **BYMCA'C'**, 9-1 over **WavLab'D'** and 8-2 to **Maghull'B'**. **SeftonPark** was a sterner test, top half of the card to Huntsman, bottom half to Sefton, Doubles shared, Lee beat Ray in the last game to secure a draw. With a bit more luck in the first game v Rob Puddifer, losing from deuce in two games, Lee could have continued the winning spree. Away at **WavLab'E'**, of course Colin Fyles won his two (credited man of the match) and Joe also went down to Andy Bird. Steve Rees beat John Williams who in turn beat Paul in 5 to stop the big two getting a point. This time no problem for Lee (visitor's m.o.t.m.) bookending his matches to Stan and Andy, both over in 3 straight! Stan just beat Steve in 12/10 in the 4<sup>th</sup> for 6-4 in sets. Card says "Good tight match between two well matched teams played in good spirit. H.W. won the battle of the verbals, well over 50 decibels. Even Stan looked quiet by comparison to Paul".

Finishing with a fine 7-3 over **Arriva'A'**, Joe, Paul and Lee all undefeated in sets, though each dropped at least one game.

### Cadwa 'D' (8<sup>th</sup> up to 5<sup>th</sup>)

#1 Ian Laird & #2 Grahame Reid with a mere handful of losses between them, the team have changed a lot in this period, Ged is now a permanent fixture and Steve Graham has come in, filling gaps left by Pete & Steve Lennon, and for the rest to the season they'll suffer without me. Which is to say "I won't be there to share the suffering", not "they'll be worse off without me"! I mean e.g. Ian, Grahame, Rob & Ged beat **SeftonPark** 8-2 and **Linacre** 9-1 (not often Mr Reeve loses both singles). The trip to **Maghull'B'** was not without incident, the new floor played a part, can't take away John's victory over Rob, 13/11 in the 4<sup>th</sup> game, nor Steve Mac's and Sung's 5 game wins over myself and Steve respectively. But Rob took a tumble twice in his doubles, once at deuce and once at game point. I was umpiring and called a let on the first instance and the point stood to Maghull in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. a set that eventually was won by the home team, 20/18 in 4<sup>th</sup>. Rob may have the bruises to show for it, just don't ask to see them.

### Arriva North West 'A'

Shaking from 3<sup>rd</sup> down to 6<sup>th</sup>. Dave Bradley made a rare appearance but he and Barry couldn't stop on fire Kristof contributing to **BSMFF's** 4 sets to 6 demise, Wacek had shown the way with a surprising 5 game win over Barry in the first match, he even came from 2 down to Billy but couldn't outwit him in the deciding game. Then Billy went on to do the same to Brian for a rare defeat. 8-2 over **Maghull'C'** with just a doubles point dropped (9/11 in't 5<sup>th</sup>) and singles by Pawel to Sue Hughes, Kristof beat Sue in 3 (16/14 in 2<sup>nd</sup>), Amy showed character to come back from /1 in her first game with Kristof, to lead by game 3.

### Wavertree Labour 'E'

They are a sound mid table team who are a different prospect when Colin plays. Fine draw with **SeftonPark**, 5 gamers shared 2 apiece, Andy & John won the top of the card (Andy over Derek in 5) and Gordon Langshaw just bested Ray 11/9 in't 5<sup>th</sup>. Andy & John not so lucky in the doubles, taking the 4<sup>th</sup> v Mike & Derek 11/1 to square it, but losing 9/11 in the decider, could have squeezed out a victory even. Great night at **Arriva** for John, firstly beating Wacek, then Kristof in straight sets, Andy's win over Pawel the only other points though (were 3-1 ahead in sets). 9-1 win at **Marconi'C'**, Colin getting his brace and Andy taking Paul Loftus' scalp 15/13 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. 8-2 at **Maghull 'B'**, Sue losing to Colin & John, who also beat Janette, Joy for Dave in beating Denise 13/11 in 4.

### Marconi 'C'

Biggest fallers from 4<sup>th</sup> down to 8<sup>th</sup> 4-6 with a weakened side at **Cadwa'D'**, I lost to Bobby & Jack Nelson in 4. A tussled draw with **Arriva'A'**, with Kristof & Brian wining their singles, the doubles saved them. Even with a reserve out **WavLab'C'** were too strong and unforgiving, P. Jennings & P. Morgan beat P. Loftus in the contests of Pauls.

Dave narrowly lost to Mr Morgan 10/12 in't 5<sup>th</sup> after being out gunned /1 in game one, doubles was again the bedrock in the 6-4 win over **WavLab'D'**, Dave won his two, incl. 5 gamer with Alvin, Alvin did however beat Paul 12/10 in't 5<sup>th</sup>. Bobby & Paul's victories over Arthur sealed it. Frank will be upset to have lost games to 12/14 & 17/15. Sue Hughes was a stumbling block for Paul & Dave at **Maghull'C'**, this after Janette had beaten Dave 15/13 in 5. A good night for Frank & Kenny though, both winning in 4 or under.

### Linacre

Wins & Draws still not out numbering the losses, in no small part due to missing Mr.Nelson for a long part of this session. 6-4 over **Marconi'C'**, as Mr Ainsworth won the battle of the Kens with two 12/10s and a starter of 18/16 v Mr.Roberts, credit Dave on beating Mr.Reeve thanks to a 12/10 fourth game that would have given Harry the set. Congrats to Alex on beating Rob Davies, Steve Daniels and John Taylor. Sans Harry, getting 4 points off **WavLab'D'** wasn't too shabby, Charlie went to 5 in both matches, firstly losing to Alvin but then taking Arthur 14/12, Alex won his two as did Francis for the biggest smiles of the night. Best win so far was 8-2 at **Maghull'B'**, which shows what happens when Mr.Nelson is available, Sung was the only player to go to 5, in both singles, losing to Alex (including a 13/15 game against), but latterly beating Charlie. A victorious draw with **WavLab'E'** as Mr.Reeve beat Colin Fyles in the last match, battle of the 1's, Harry could have bowed out in game 4, but won it 15/13 which drained Colin for the decider. Fine win earlier for John in beating Harry 11/8 in't 5<sup>th</sup>. John Bradshaw did tremendously well to beat Stan Clarke in the opening match, 11/8 int 5<sup>th</sup>. His next game with Dave Williams went to 5 but Dave recovered from his defeat by Charlie to beat John, in fact only 2 sets were over in 3 games and 6 sets went to 5, honours shared there too.

### Wavertree Labour 'D'

Important leapfrog over the Maghull teams to have a buffer from the relegation zone, they may yet be surpassed by the 'B' team, but they have a healthy 8 point lead over the 'C'

to cling onto like a lifebuoy. Well done's: Alf beating Billy & Colin (**BSM'F'**) then teaming up with Allan to do the same to them in the doubles – for the teams only points. Francis in saving a whitewash from **HuntsmanWood, A** draw at a weakened **CADWA'D'** – tribute to Allan still going strong at 11 o'clock in his 13<sup>th</sup> game of the night, fine 7-3 over **BYMCA'C'**, Arthur and Francis undefeated and Alvin & Francis showing experience wins out, 17-15 in't 5<sup>th</sup> in this case, in 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles.

### Maghull 'B'

They've had quite a fluid line up; in one fortnight young John McCloughlin was the only person to play in both matches, reserve Tom Miller did his bit in the **WavLab'C'** draw beating Barker & Biggs in 4. Fine wins for John & Loon over Paul Morgan, both 11/7 in't 5<sup>th</sup>! and Sung over Biggs also in 5. Well done Harry saving a whitewash from **BSM'F'** and John from **Huntsman** (fine wins over Joe & Paul). The Wai Yu lads did well at **Arriva'A'**, firstly Sung beatin' Brian in 3, then Loon just besting Pawel 14/12 in't 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Maghull 'C'

Good to see that these are a settled team, big 7-3 over **WavLab'D'**, the Ladies win over the Gentlemen clinched with two sets won 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> game, firstly Janette beat Alan Biggs then Amy did the same to Arthur Harrison. "Amy v Arthur was a classic with big hitting from Amy and ace defending from Arthur, youth + hitting triumphing over age + experience, Amy came back from 10-5 down in the 5<sup>th</sup>". Sue Hughes & Amy didn't drop a set in the derby, John just losing to both, Amy again doing it the hard

way in 5 to him and Loon, Loon doubly disappointed, losing to Denise. 'B' team reserve Jim Dickson made a valuable contribution to setup a draw. Bear in mind that the teams would have been affected by the outage to their home venue, although they did record on the card "Both

---



---

## Division 5

Now that we have got into February Division Five is starting to give a glimpse of what the table will look like at the finish line. It looks like a Sefton sandwich with the A and B teams bookmarking the league table, just as it was in the last Digest, the A Team (as it were) are still looking the Invincibles with 17 wins out of 17, dropping just 20 points and slotting 150 points onto the board – the best points tally across all five divisions. **Sefton A** still boast three of the top five averages in the division, with both Fred Cowley and Ian Findon holding 100% records until January 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, Peter Tod winning all but two and Robbie dropping just four



## Ged Howard

games, it is clear to see how this formidable team have been adjusting to life in the Fifth.

But what of the contenders to the throne? as it stands, upstarts **Bootle YMCA D** have cruised their way into second place in what has been an extremely impressive season – at this rate, we may have to have a name change on our hands, with the D-team's fortunes mirroring the C-team's experiences in the Fourth division, where they are rooted to the bottom of the table. The Bootle Boys (and slightly bigger boy Roly) took the battle of **Waterloo** with a 10-0 win, only Liam

Shaw required more than three sets, though maybe he was trying to get his money's worth for the night. This was

followed by a solid 7-3 win at home to some experienced heads at **Bath Street**, a great night for Josh “The Business” Cashmore capped off with a win over Albert Parker, not the easiest opponent for any youngster, but a cool victory in the fifth from the rapidly improving college student who whips around the table at great speed. Two also for Saul Keelan, keeping his temperament in check to blast past Keith and Cyril, Tom Doubtfire recorded a straightforward victory over Des but struggled against a resilient Keith who returned everything with interest, frustrating the teen. The battle of the blockers, Liam and Albert, forced Liam out of his defensive comfort zone and needing to attack which played right into the hands of Alby who was able to see off the Bootle boy’s pressuring for the win, I am told the match marked a return to action for Cyril Penny so from all in the league a big welcome back to you!

**Maghull D** have had a solid first half to the campaign. In December they beat **Wavertree F** 7-3, the two Jims Ambrose and Dickson winning both their two, accompanied by a win for Alan over Eric and both doubles swinging the way of **Maghull**. However, Gordon Langshaw continues to battle away for his wins, defeating both Alan and Naresh in a tidy night’s work, Femi continues to improve, kicking the evening off with a comfortable three set win over Naresh. From this match, Maghull went to **Sefton B** and escaped with a 6-4 win, Eric Wood doing all he can to help his side’s current predicament with wins over Alan and Jim, unfortunately, Eric’s team mates couldn’t quite match his heroics but they gave it a good go, Mike and Alan taking opponents to five but Barry going the distance with Andy and taking the final game for the win, a much better team than it appears on the league table.

**Marconi D** have shown that they are at least the equal of the teams around them, they are very close to **Arriva B** in the league table at the moment but in November they went to Arriva’s place and came away with an 8-2 win, which included a cameo appearance (and two wins) for Trevor Owens, including one over Harry Hughes. Though Andy, James and Adrian have shown over the last few months that they are more than capable of holding their own. They followed this victory with a 7-3 win over Maghull E. James Haskell winning the battle of the 1s over Brian Gregory to show the improvement this team is making with every match they play. They saw off **Waterloo** 7-3 and Bath Street G 8-2 to put themselves in the great position they are in now, Adam Kee and Andy Chaloner have shown that they have what it takes to challenge the big boys with some massive wins over the festive and new year period.

Good times look like they may be returning to **Arriva B**, after struggling to fill the void left by Larry Stone’s meteoric rise to a higher team last season the B team have been looking for a winning combo to springboard their way to promotion and as it stands they are within touching distance of the promotion places. Harry Hughes is having a barnstorming season with the bus drivers. They narrowly lost 6-4 to fierce opposition at **Maghull E**, Harry’s two

cancelled out by Keith Whittaker’s two wins for the ‘Gulls, Januz was pegged back by Brian Gregory and Alan Smethurst, with Andy McCourt firing past Josef in five to secure the win for Maghull. The drivers responded to this setback with a 10-0 win over Waterloo and a 9-1 win over **Bath Street G** – a comfortable night for the team, with only Bath Street stalwart Alby Parker preventing the whitewash by defying Januz, Jozef and Danny seeing off most opposition in their 3 and 4 positions.

Is there a doctor in the house? Well, if you are playing **Cadwa E** this season there is a good chance that there is with a growing roster of Docs taking to the table, whether this is a direct response to us losing Dr Joud to The South in close-season is another story – though as those prowling the division these last two seasons will testify that the good Doc Joud probably injured more than he saved – not just his feather-touch of a forehand but possibly hurling his bat skyward in disgust, he will be missed. But to the current Cadwa crop, Satish looks like the rising Cadwa star as far as the current averages go, along with Lewis backed up by Paul Oakes and Jack Highton. Satish and Shantanu came away from **Arriva** with Cadwa’s only points in a 8-2 defeat. The new year saw the team reflect and come back out stronger; they went to Waterloo and fought out a 7-3 win, Chris Halliday with a solid win over Graham but then joining forces with Jack “The Hitman” Highton, winning a 5 set thriller over Waterloo’s Paul and George that neither side deserved to lose. Chris continued his winning form, beating the experienced Des Logan of **Bath Street** in a 5-5 draw between the two sides. Jack Highton led the line well but couldn’t prevent Albert Parker winning his two, though Shantanu had a great night winning both his games. Although the experience of Bath Street showed up clearly in the doubles with the BSM crew taking both, a flaw to the slew of doctors found in the team was shown when **Maghull** visited the club in January – Shantanu was forced to leave the team a man short due to an emergency at Whiston Hospital – meaning that Maghull left Cadwa 8-2 victors, harming the team’s chances of putting pressure on those above them.

If you separate the current league table into segments – **Sefton A** peerless at the top, followed by the quartet of **Bootle**, **Maghull D**, **Marconi** and **Arriva B** fighting out for runners up spot, then there is a bit of a gap with a number of teams battling to get into the top six, headed by Cadwa followed by **Maghull F**, **Bath St G**, **Wavertree F** and **Maghull E**, then finally, you have the bottom three of **Merseyside Police**, **Waterloo** and **Sefton B** who are all fighting to improve their current league positions.

**Maghull F** could capitalise on any slipups further up to attack a top five finish, they certainly have the better of those around them, as shown over the festive period, In this time they saw off **Wavertree** 7-3, two for Michael Stewart and one each for Luke C and Harry Mc. Then came a narrow win over Cadwa. Harry McGanity besting Jack and Paul, but needing five sets for both, showing the narrow difference between the sides, Michael Stewart and

Daniel Hall chipping in as well, Maghull taking both doubles to secure the points. However, the team's inability to finish off teams may prove a stumbling block with two draws in a week, at **Sefton B** and **Mahull E**, that they may look back on as lost opportunities to rise up the table, their final match in January resulted in a 7-3 win over **Waterloo**. They are a much better side with Luke Courtney and Harry McGanity playing together and this showed on the night with some comfortably won games.

**The Police** have had a chequered period, heavy 9-1 and 10-0 defeats to Arriva B and Cadwa respectively, the latter a man short, no doubt causing worries among the camp, these two matches led to what sounds like a cracking away match at **Maghull E** that was summed up best by Andy McCourt in his match report: "Match of the season" – Dad's Army 5 – Keystone Cops 5. another hilarious evening at Maghull. Good banter and humour, especially with Wilf Gibson, Alan 'Lazarus' Smethurst and Eric 'The Count' Young. The best game was saved until last with 'The Count' eventually squeezing the life blood out of 'Lazarus'. Everyone went home with a smile on their face – or was that the Carling Black Label?"

From here, the **Police** used their momentum to catch **Waterloo 6-4**. Jack Gittins losing to John Lau, who despite his team's position has had a great season by all accounts, and Paul Mainey. Though with the likes of Eric Young in at 4<sup>th</sup> position you can never sit back, who along with Mike Flannery both won their two.

It is tighter than it looks at the bottom, with right now this second, only 9 points separating Sefton B and the Police, though **Sefton Park B** are struggling to play a regular team, Barry struggled to finish against **Bootle D** in the last fortnight, having to retire before facing Josh. This shows how tight the margins are at the moment and it could be an injury or playing short that could cause the difference between positions come the season's end.

Final note: I've not played in the Fifth since writing the last report so apologies to those who feel they have not got a mention they deserve as apart from the few who add a bit of story on the match cards, I am just trying to form a narrative from the numbers in front of me. All the best, Ged.

---

---

## Letters

Dear Editor

As the General Secretary of the League I am involved in virtually every aspect of League business. My involvement therefore very often crosses over with the duties of other League officials. I would never undermine another official in his duties but on occasion I am asked to help with certain issues or I may be used as a sounding board just to help clarify some issues. I suppose the main area of League business where this occurs is in respect to the rules of the League and their interpretation. Having been a League official for 18 years I feel that I have established a good understanding of the rules. I have been helped over the years, in no small way, by the likes of the late Ken Armson and our Chairman Don Davies.

It is sad therefore that following the decision of the Management Committee to enforce a rule on a member club, that the secretary of that club decided to send an email to me, and a few other Management Committee members, which questioned our integrity and our honesty and accused us of discrimination against their club. Fortunately I am thick skinned enough to be able to take this with a pinch of salt but that doesn't mean I like to have my integrity, or the integrity of the Management Committee questioned, far from it.

If a club disagrees with a decision made by the Management Committee over the interpretation of League rules, the correct way to voice their opposition is to appeal against that decision as per rule 3 and not to send to me, or others, a distasteful email.

I have to say it is extremely disappointing that members of the League who give their services freely to act on the Management Committee have to put up with comments such as this. Thankfully this isn't the norm and 99% of the time we do not suffer from such insults.

I trust this letter will act as a reminder to everyone that our committee members are all unpaid volunteers who perform a vital duty in ensuring we all enjoy the game of table tennis in the city of Liverpool and, even if we do not satisfy everyone all of the time, we do not expect to have our integrity questioned in such a manner.

Mike Power  
Hon. League Secretary  
LD TTL

### **SUPER "B" LEAGUE**

After nine games any one of eight out of twelve teams remain in contention for the Division Two Title.

In a recent game the team lying eighth beat the top team 6-4.

In over 50 years playing in the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League, I cannot recall a more evenly matched set of teams.

By the time this Article is published some clarity may have emerged but don't bank on it. Of the four teams who lack the fire power to win the League, each and every one have good players capable of causing serious damage to the top sides.

The remaining eight teams contain a number of excellent young new players who are a breath of fresh air, and quite a number of ageing former First Division players who are on the way down but are not yet out.

Every team contains a first class Number One, and if there is a weakness it is in the inability of some teams to play their best three players in every game. Who, for example, would want to play the three Gittins every week or any combination you like of Messrs. Edwards, Spedding, Bramham and Jackson, whose teams incidentally are currently not in the top four.

I think the ultimate winner will be the team that manages to stick together and which has a good reserve player.

The quality enthusiasm and intensity of all the games in which I have played is of a very high standard and my only fear is that some misfortune later in the season may result in one of the contenders being awarded a 10 nil walkover, we really should try to remove this anomaly.

Notwithstanding my ever waning abilities, I haven't enjoyed myself so much for years.

Ted Birch.  
Bootle YMCA

### **Liverpool School Sport Partnership Table Tennis League**



The league has been running well with the standard of play from the young people improving each league night. Schools to look out for in the Yr 8&9 League are SFX, Calderstones High School and Broadgreen Technology College. In the Yr 10&11 league schools to watch are Broadgreen Technology College, St Margaret's C.E High School and the Academy of St Francis of Assisi. Its all to play for in the final night on Thursday 23rd February at Gateacre High school.

<b>Years 8/9</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>pts</b>
1 SFX	5	4	1	0	40	20	40
2 Calderstones	4	3	0	1	32	16	32
3 Broadgreen	5	1	3	1	29	31	29
4 Childwall	4	2	1	1	29	19	29
5 Shorefields	4	2	1	1	27	21	27
6 St Margarets	4	1	1	2	26	22	26
7 Academy SFA	4	0	3	0	8	40	8
8 Bluecoat	2	0	2	0	1	23	1

<b>Years 10/11</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>pts</b>
1 Broadgreen	5	4	1	0	45	15	45
2 St Margarets	3	3	0	0	32	4	32
3 Academy SFA	4	3	1	0	29	19	29
4 Childwall	4	1	3	0	19	29	19
5 SFX	2	0	1	1	7	17	7
6 Bluecoat	2	0	1	1	7	17	7
7 Shorefields	4	0	4	0	5	43	5

Thanks to Liverpool Schools Sport  
Co-ordinator Nuala Dunne for this report

Sefton Schools League has not been so successful getting the interest going again this season, but the Sport Co-ordinators are doing their best, if only more L&DTTL players would get involved in our local Schools!!

But the first most important requirement I would think is the interest of school Staff, to push the initial interest.

## Divisional Cups

### 2nd round results

#### READMAN CUP. Div. 1

Crosby High	5	v	3	CADWA
Bootle YM.	2	v	5	Crosby High 'B'
Bath St. M. 'A'	win	v	disq.	Fords
Christ. The King	5	v	3	Bath St. M.

#### RUMJAHN CUP. Div. 2

Harold House 'A'	5	v	3	Crosby High 'C'
M/side. Police 'A'	5	v	0	Wav. Lab. 'A'
Marconi 'A'	5	v	1	Wav. Lab. 'B'
Marconi	5	v	3	Christ the King 'B'

#### HYDE CUP. Div.3.

Maghull	5	v	3	Bootle YM. 'B'
Marconi 'B'	3	v	5	Bath st. M. 'C'
CADWA 'B'	5	v	2	Bath st. M. 'E'
Maghull 'A'	1	v	5	Arriva N.W.

#### FORREST CUP. Div. 4

Maghull 'C'	1	v	5	Wav. Lab. 'E'
CADWA 'D'	disq.	v	win	Maghull 'B'
Huntsman Wood	5	v	1	Linacre
Wav. Lab. 'C'	5	v	1	Sefton Park

#### STAMP CUP. Div. 5

Wav. Lab. 'F'	5	v	4	Maghull 'F'
Waterloo	2	v	5	Maghull 'E'
Sefton Park 'A'	5	v	0	CADWA 'E'
Bootle YM. 'D'	3	v	5	Maghull 'D'

## Semi Final Draw

#### READMAN CUP. Div. 1

Crosby H.	v	Crosby H. 'B'
Bath St. M. 'A'	v	Christ The King

#### RUMJAHN CUP. Div. 2

Marconi	v	Har. House 'A'
Marconi 'A'	v	M. Police 'A'

#### HYDE CUP. Div.3.

Maghull	v	Bath St. M. 'C'
CADWA 'B'	v	Arriva N.W.

#### FORREST CUP. Div. 4

Huntsman Wd.	v	Wav. Lab. 'C'
Maghull 'B'	v	Wav. Lab. 'E'

#### STAMP CUP. Div. 5

Sefton Pk. 'A'	v	Wav. Lab. 'F'
Maghull 'D'	v	Maghull 'E'

## Frank Murphy Memorial Vets Handicap Cup

#### 2nd rnd results

CADWA 4	360	v	337	BATH St. M.2
BATH St. M.3	462	v	396	MAGHULL 2
MARCONI 1	306	v	317	BOOTLE YM.1
CADWA 2	427	v	412	MAGHULL 1
M/POLICE 3	304	v	362	BATH St. M.1
BATH St. M.5	537	v	473	SEFTON PK.1
M/POLICE 2	456	v	410	BOOTLE YM.2
CHRIST the KING	win	v	c/cede	WAV.LAB. 2

#### 3rd rnd results

M/POLICE 2	398	v	408	CADWA 4
BATH St. M.5	435	v	417	CHRIST the KING
CADWA 2	429	v	376	BATH St. M.3
BOOTLE YM.1	307	v	285	BATH St. M.1

#### Semi Finals

BATH St. MARINE 5	v	CADWA 2
BOOTLE YMCA 1	v	CADWA 4

## **The Liverpool Closed 2012**

Will be held at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, on  
Sunday March 11th.

Men's and Women's Singles.  
O/40's & O/50's Vets. Singles.  
2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Div. Singles.  
Open Doubles.

Competition for all capabilities.  
Compete in your own division  
and more.

Finals Night will take place on  
Monday 19th March  
At the CADWA Club

Entry forms obtained from Club Secretaries and  
can be downloaded from our two websites

### **Don't miss it !!**

With so many youngsters playing in the  
Liverpool League at all levels  
This year could see one of the best  
Junior Singles Competition

For many years

### **Don't miss it !!**

# The Life of an Umpire

Like the majority of table tennis players I used to turn up to my matches each week, play my games, umpire the odd game and hopefully have a pleasant, successful match. I knew hardly anything about the Laws of TT except that you changed service every five points; you were supposed to throw the ball up during service and you had to reach 21 points before your opponent.

My knowledge of umpiring changed about 1995. Brian Leeson, during the LD TTL AGM, identified the need for new county umpires. For some reason I put my name forward and the next thing I knew I was taking the County test paper, which I passed. Stan Clarke then took me under his wing and I attended a number of county events where I started to learn the skills required to be an effective umpire.

I found that the hardest part of being an umpire, initially, was building confidence in decision making and clearly understanding the Laws of TT. All umpires make mistakes, occasionally, but if the Laws of TT are clearly understood then the decision making is made easier.

After approximately 2 years, as a county umpire, I took the National Umpire test. This consisted of a test paper, assessments and interview. I was successful and again I, like all umpires, gained further experience by umpiring at national tournaments and umpiring the higher ranked players.

After a further few years umpiring at County and National tournaments I took the International Umpires' test paper. I was successful and this qualification allowed me umpire at international events at home and overseas. I also umpired at the Commonwealth Games, in Manchester 2002, which was an eye opener into umpiring at major events.

My first overseas event was the Portuguese Youth tournament in Tavira with another International Umpire (IU). It was just before Christmas. We were there for 5 days. It was warm, sunny with good table tennis. A friendly tournament to break me into international umpiring.

The following year I was selected to umpire at the European Youth Championships in Sarejevo, This tournament lasted for 2 weeks and I, together with another English umpire, worked with approximately 50 other umpires of varying standards. Sarejevo and Bosnia



were still recovering from the Civil war that had recently taken place. All over the city there was damage and signs of the conflict that had taken place. However, our hosts were very friendly and I gained a lot of experience from the event. I was discovering that the standard of English umpires was often much higher than other International umpires. I also discovered many of the Eastern European players had surnames containing 11-13 letters which were almost impossible to pronounce.

I continued to gain experience as an IU by umpiring at tournaments in Russia, Luxembourg. I also gained experience in pronouncing many of the foreign surnames.

About this time the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) decided to introduce an extra layer of umpire qualification. It is known as the "Blue Badge" (BB) qualification and is only open to experienced international umpires. The idea was to introduce a group of umpires who would be required to attend an additional international training course and examination. If successful the "Blue badge" umpire would be required to attend international tournaments and be subject of strict assessments each year in order to maintain the BB qualification. The BB qualification is similar to the FIFA Football Referee qualification and the umpires for the Olympics, World Championships and other major tournaments would be selected from this group of umpires.

I decided to apply for the BB qualification. I knew the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games were coming to London and that Blue Badge umpires would be required for the Olympics. My ambition was to umpire at the Olympic Games 2012. In 2007 I attended the Russian Open in St. Petersburg where I was successful in passing the BB examination and initial assessments and since then I have attended a number of overseas events to maintain my qualification. On average I attend 2 overseas events a year.

In 2008 I attended the European Championships in St. Petersburg with Bob Williamson from Lancashire. We were lucky to see table tennis of the highest standard and I was selected to umpire the men's final, with Bob, between Timo Boll and Vladimir Samsonov. It was a great final and it shows what can be achieved with a bit of extra practice.

In 2009 the English Open was re-introduced as a build up to the 2012 Olympics. The ITTF Pro Tour event was held in Sheffield and all the worlds top players attended. There were 12 English umpires and 12 overseas umpires. Stan Clarke and Dave Goulden also attended from Liverpool. The umpiring partnerships are decided by the tournament referee but the pairings do give you the opportunity of working with and gaining experience with overseas colleagues. At the end of the event I was selected to umpire the men's final, with a German umpire, between Ma Long and Ma Lin from China. (The 2008 World No. 2 ranked player and the 2008 Olympic Champion).

In 2010 the ITTF Pro Tour – English Open was again held in Sheffield. A similar format to 2009 took place and I was selected to umpire the Women's Double Final with a colleague from France.

In November 2011 I was selected to attend the Men's World Cup finals in Paris. Eight Umpires were required; four from France and four others, including me, from around the world. The table tennis at the tournament was amazing. Four thousand spectators attend the tournament each day and the event was sold out 5 months before the event. I was selected, with a French colleague to umpire the men's final between Wang Hao and Zhang Jike. The good news is that this event, in 2012, is being held at the Liverpool Arena and an ideal time for all our local players and spectators to see the world's top players.

Later the same month Stan Clarke and I attended the ITTF Pro Tour Finals at the Excel Centre, London. This will be the venue for the Olympic table tennis in 2012 and the finals were used as a test event for the Olympics. The world's top players took part in the event and I umpired the Women's Doubles finals between Guo/Li of China (R1) and Fukuhara/Ishikawa of Japan (R3).

At the same time the ITTF confirmed that I and three other British umpires had been selected to umpire at the Olympic Games. About the same time it was confirmed that Stan Clarke, and Dave Goulden had been selected as umpires for the Paralympics.

The above details summarise the life of an active table tennis umpire and highlight what can be achieved in this area of table tennis. Although the above summary highlights my career as an umpire it can be duplicated by many other English umpires. The limiter on attending tournaments is usually one's domestic circumstances. In addition to attending international tournaments, overseas, all the English umpires regularly umpire at domestic events run by the ETTA, Junior British League, Vets British League and Women's British League and County tournaments. An umpire can be as busy as he or she wishes.

The above circumstances show what can be achieved in the world of umpiring. We are very lucky to be holding the Olympics next year and this is an event that may not be seen in this country again. However, achieving International Umpire status and attend tournaments around the world can be achieved by the majority of umpires, if they wish to do so. Many umpires are happy working as County or National Umpires and they are the backbone of the umpiring community.

The ETTA is in the process of recruiting new umpires. The vast majority of umpires are also league players and often players become umpires as they become older but the umpiring fraternity is crying out for new, younger umpires. An increasing number of younger umpires are becoming International Umpires and attending major tournaments. There is an opportunity to see the best players in the world and to travel all over the world if you are suitably qualified. I, and other local international umpires, have been able to achieve the required standard and there is no reason why other local players cannot achieve the same standard. If you are interested in becoming an umpire then please contact me.

Tom Purcell  
International Umpire  
Lancashire County Umpires' Secretary

It just shows what can be achieved when you set your mind to it, but it doesn't come without dedication! But for up and coming Umpires, there are the targets, anyone interested in starting their Umpiring career should contact Tom who is Secretary and player at Merseyside Police Table Tennis Club.

Table Tennis major events in 2012 have the Olympics from Sat. 12th July to Wednesday 8th August at the London Excel Arena, followed by the Paralympics from Thursday 30th August to Wednesday 8th September at the same venue.

Liverpool has a big year with the City of Liverpool Open Grand Prix on the 18th & 19th August, but the big new one for Liverpool T.T. is the Liebert Men's World Cup Final to be held at the Liverpool Echo Arena on Friday 28th September to Sunday 30th, September, A first for Liverpool, and I would expect ticket demand will be heavy from all over the North of England, so start watching for the tickets!

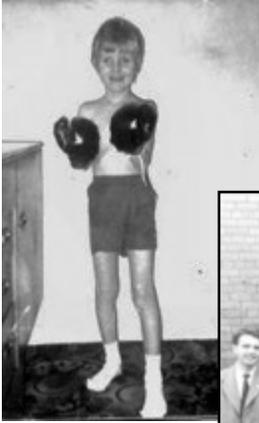
*Thanks for that report Tom.*

We also have our own Liverpool Closed on Sunday March 11th. Entry forms with your Club Secs. and on our web sites.

*Editor*

# 11 Up

Another in the series of interviews of well known players by Paul Gittens,  
this one from Wavertree Labour's **Roy Smith**



Roy at 7, ready to take on anyone

## Where did it all start ?

I initially became interested in table tennis whilst at Granton Road school, Anfield. I won the Liverpool School's Table Tennis Championships 1958 aged 14. Also I was in same class as Fred Bainbridge for four years and three forms below was Ian McElwee. I began playing more seriously when I joined the 'Everton Red Triangle Club,' when aged 14/15, John Higham and Robbie Goldson were also members at the same time.



Class photo 1959, Roy, front row 3rd right, Fred Bainbridge, front row far left

## Best player played against

John Hilton, European Champion and also Adam Robertson the Welsh Men's number 1' who



Winners of the Lonsdale Cup (Wirral) with Civic 1, Gary Watson, Neil Roydon and Roy

were all current Liverpool Men's Singles Champions.

took the league by storm as a young 12 year old.

## Best win

Beating Pete Darcy, Brian Parkinson, Keith Williams,

Wayne Percival, Stu Richards and Kevin Dolder, when they



Roy at 19 with wife Nancy, 'dressed to kill' with his suit, slim jim and tie pin in the collar, those were the days!

## Worst defeat.

Losing match point to nearly becoming then the youngest Mens Singles Liverpool Champion in 1963 aged 18. Wally Alanson was the victor. I think Wally still plays down South somewhere.

## Best player to watch

The best local player to watch, Mr Consistent, Keith Williams, I've never seen him play a poor game, a true gentleman, and very modest.



Another Cup ( Wirral ) presented by Bill Lowe to Peter Walsh Snr. and L to R Dave Roberts, Steve Green, Roy, and Gary Watson

**Funniest Table Tennis moment**

Peter Lee v's Dave Roberts during a cup match at English Electric. Dave hit a forehand kill (honest ) but loses his grip of the bat, sending the bat hurtling at a deadly pace towards Peter's head. Peter athletically (honest ) dives to the floor just avoiding the injury, resulting in the bat lodging in the plasterboard wall, silence was then followed by heaps of laughter.

**Who is your TT hero and why?**

Ron Jones LYMCA 1959-61, coached me 5 days a week for hours on end, playing every shot in the book, Ron emphasized the



Roy, with trophies he's amassed over the years, I'm not sure which year this was , but I would think there would be a few more!

importance of footwork and developed training sessions purely focused on movement and balance. Ron was a great player, representing Cheshire County at a time when County players were the cream of the Country. Internationally, Jan Ove Waldner of Sweden has to be the complete player of all time, world class and so cool under pressure.

**Tell me something that would surprise me?**

I was one grade away from gaining a Black Belt in Kung Fu in the 70's but suffered a broken shaft in the hand and a broken shoulder in



Roy in Kung Fu 'battle dress' 1976, with a Brown Belt & 2 Tabs

training, this ended my career, incidentally, the broken hand is the reason for my unusual grip..

**Is there life other than TT?**

Horse racing. I got hooked as a teenager in the sixties then spent 46 years in the Betting Industry managing 38 shops in total. I still have a 'wager' now and again, following the trainer Sir Henry Cecil who is the owner of the super horse 'Frankel,' reputed to become the greatest horse of all time. My favourite jockey of all time is the one and only Lester Piggott.

**What changes in the game would you like to see?**

Reverting back to the 21 UP plus using the same rubbers on both sides of the bat as well as being the same colour. I am very passionate about NOT playing with 'funny' rubbers, preferring to trust my ability to return the ball.

**Coaching tip**

To do footwork training to improve balance and movement, this is essential for correct position for your stroke play.

Roy as we know him now, with grandson, hope Roy can pass his many skills on!



## New funding announcement on youth sport

Tuesday 10 January 2012

Every secondary school in England is set to host a community sports club, as part of a new strategy to encourage young people to play sport for life, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced today.

The five-year youth and community sport strategy published today will see new school-based sports clubs established with links to one or more sports' national governing bodies. Expert coaches will run sessions to help create strong ties between schools and local sports clubs already in existence in their area.

Baroness Sue Campbell, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said:

"Whilst school sport has made exceptional progress in recent years to successfully drive up participation rates, the drop off once these young people leave school remains a challenge that needs to be tackled and this funding seeks to address that, which should be welcomed.

"From our own extensive experience of working with schools to develop links with local sports clubs we know just how important it is for them to form strong partnerships with those who offer sporting opportunities in local communities. When delivered well, they can dramatically increase the access for young people to take part in more sport outside of school hours.

"Young people now enjoy far greater opportunities to take part in a whole range of sports when they are at school. It is the diversity of the sports, beyond the traditional offering, that drives the increase in participation and we must ensure these opportunities continue once they leave school.

"Critically, this funding must support those who have enjoyed a positive experience at school and give them every incentive to continue to take part in sport in later life."

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news\\_stories/8760.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8760.aspx) Four thousand new sports clubs and £10 million Sainsbury's investment to inspire a new sporting generation

### **Jeremy Hunt unveils £1 billion strategy that delivers on 2012 Games promise.**

Every secondary school in England will have the opportunity to establish a community sports club, as part of a new strategy to encourage young people to play sport for life, Culture Secretary [Jeremy Hunt announced today](#).

The move is a key part of a £1 billion, five-year youth and community sport strategy that will deliver on Lord Coe's 2012 Games bid promise to inspire a generation to get involved in sport. The funding is predominantly from the lottery with £200 million being exchequer funding.

"We need a radical change in policy to address the deep-seated problem of people dropping out of sport when they leave school," said Mr Hunt. "Our bold approach will see money going to organisations that deliver on youth participation, but also withdrawn quickly from those which fail to meet agreed objectives."

### ***Ensuring long term sports participation***

Delivered by Sport England, [the strategy](#) will see new school-based sports clubs established with links to sports' national governing bodies.

- £100 million will be invested in creating the clubs and tackling the drop-off in sports participation that can happen when young people leave school. Of this, £50 million will be invested to boost sport provision at further education colleges and universities
- The funding will also provide a full-time sports professional within at least 150 further education colleges, to drive forward innovative sports provision
- Around £450 million will go to sports governing bodies between 2013 and 2017 for their [whole sport plans](#)
- Around 60 per cent will benefit young people aged 14-25 so that sports are completely focussed on helping to drive a sporting habit for life. The remaining 40 per cent will be aimed at the rest of the population. Funding to governing bodies will be on a payments-by-results basis with sports that fail to deliver putting their public funding at risk

### ***School Games investment***

The UK's Olympic and Paralympic sporting legacy was also given a huge boost today when [Sainsbury's pledged a £10 million package to support the new School Games Competition](#) over the next four years. A further £14 million from the [Department of Health](#) and [£8 million from Sport England](#) will extend funding for School Games organisers from two to four years (up to 2015).

Sponsorship from adidas means that the 1,600 young athletes will also be provided with sports kit. Sainsbury's recently announced [David Beckham as its new Active Kids programme ambassador](#).

## Expansion for PremierLeague4Sport

12th January 2012

Premier League 4 Sport held an event on Wednesday to celebrate the success of the project as well as its new plans for expansion and greater funding.

Held at St Mary Magdalene School (an Arsenal FC PL4S satellite location) the day saw a congregation of officials, sports stars, programme managers and participants celebrate the project's great work since it was launched in 2009.

PL4S is a joint venture between the Premier League, Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust which started on the back of a £3.8 million investment through the Premier League 'Creating Chances' programme. Now, an extra £2 million investment will see the project double its number of Olympic sports that it's involved in from four to eight. Joining the highly successful table tennis, volleyball, judo and badminton programmes will now be basketball, handball, hockey and netball. There to celebrate this new move were sports stars past and present such as our own Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley, as well as Gail Emms (badminton), Darren Campbell (athletics) and Graeme Le Saux (football).

Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Scudamore, who was also attending the event, said: "The dedication of the clubs and their staff to this project has ensured that PL4S has gone way past the targets first set in 2009. PL4S will provide tens of thousands of more competitive sporting opportunities and help develop a new generation of coaches." He added: "This is a real legacy."

The programme sees Premier League clubs acting as hubs to create links to community sports clubs and facilities, which in turn connect to local schools to create satellite sports centres. All of the Premier League clubs involved has a dedicated PL4S co-ordinator who work locally with the clubs and schools to maximise opportunities for young people.

Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said: "Football can be incredibly powerful in engaging young people. The PL4S scheme has already given a huge boost to grassroots sport. Using the power of football to attract young people, the aim is for PL4S to be providing a legacy long after the 2012 Olympic Games in London."

Mr Hunt's sentiments were echoed by Alison Oliver, who is the Director of Sport at the Youth Sport Trust. She said: "The relationships these clubs have with their local communities and schools are invaluable and through PL4S new partnerships with NGBs have led to an exciting network of satellite sports clubs on school sites."

She concluded: "We're delighted to be part of such an innovative programme which is playing a vital role at increasing young people's participation."

Attendees, including Jo Parker and Kelly Sibley, pose in front of the Premier League trophy

### Achievements of PL4S since 2009 include:

- 61% of participants retained
- 30% of participants sustained

- over 100 national and regional competitions organised
- 80 new sports clubs created by the 20 Premier League clubs
- In excess of 850 sports leaders and sports coaching qualifications gained
- Exceeds national targets on hard to reach groups: 33% of participants are female (3x national average) and 14% are black or ethnic minority.

Liverpool has a Premier League 4 Sport coaching set up, the Anfield Academy, organised by the ETTA, and funded via the PL4Sport set up. I wonder how many Liverpool players know that; we never hear about them, what happens to all the youngsters who get coached, they seem to be an ETTA 'enclave' in the Liverpool and District T.T. world.

The L&DTTL have quite a bit of involvement with new youngsters being done by various Clubs, bringing them into the League, the difference being that the Local clubs are doing it mostly by volunteers from the Clubs involved, at no cost to the Clubs or League.

When the Anfield Academy first started in Nov. 2010, I was fully behind the idea of a specialist T.T. Coaching set up in Liverpool, and still am, sadly the L&DTTL weren't asked to take part, (other than to provide the loan of equipment), the coaching staff were chosen by the ETTA, at the time I thought it has got to be good for Liverpool T.T. and e-mailed Andrea Holt, the North West T.T. Rep. in my capacity of Digest Editor, to ask to be kept up to date on progress at the Academy, as I thought it would be of great interest to Liverpool League players to know that new young players were coming through, Andrea assured me that she would pass on to the appointed coach Jordyn Leyfield, nothing happened. At last years C.O.L. Grand Prix I bumped into Jordyn and brought up the subject of the Academy and requested an article for the Digest about the Academy, assuring her that it would be read with great interest by the membership, gave her a copy of the latest Digest, got an assurance that she would provide something, sadly nothing forthcoming, may be too busy or forgot, but I would think that keeping the only outlet for those being coached, informed of progress, would have been a main priority, I'm also on the League ManCom, and can't recall any info coming our way via the ManCom. Maybe the new youngsters are judged to be 'not quite ready yet!'

A quote from PL4Sport site:-

"The initiative (PL4Sport) **hopes to curb the drop-off in young people's participation in sports after leaving secondary school**, as well as offering five hours of activities to youngsters as part of the government's 2012 legacy plans".

Where T.T.? The L&DTTL  
Editor

# Men's World Cup Coming To Liverpool

The World Cup is coming to Liverpool this September 28-30th which could be your chance to see top Olympians in action.

With top sporting venues such as Goodison Park and Anfield, Liverpool – the 2008 City of Culture, is used to hosting exciting sporting events and this year will be no different with a number of the world's top players heading to the Echo Arena for the Liebherr Men's World Cup.



Zhang Jike, the 2011 winner in Paris

It will be the first major table tennis event after the Olympics and for those of you who may have missed out on tickets for that can certainly make up for it here when international table tennis returns to the North West of England.

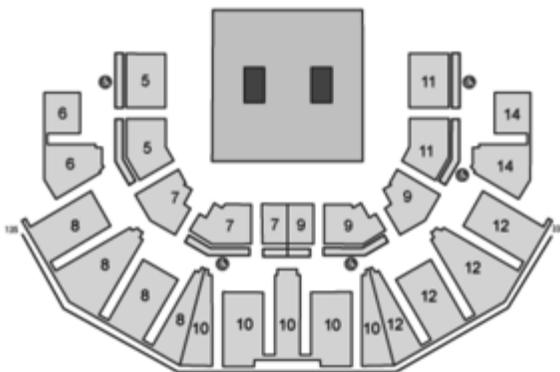
The Liebherr Men's World Cup is one of the highest profile events on the International Table Tennis Federation's calendar and it could see the competitive debut of the new Olympic Champion. The tournament consists of an elite group of 19 players, made up from Olympic and World Champions, four Intercontinental Champions (Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania), a home nation wildcard and the highest ranked international players.

The competition is a solely singles affair with only male entrants (a separate women's world cup takes place in the calendar) who will fight for pride, honour and a share of the expected prize fund of £150,000.

It will conclude an exciting 12 months for English table tennis which has hosted the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals, The Olympic and Paralympic Games and now the Liebherr Men's World Cup.

Last year the event was held in Paris, France where it was won by China's Zhang Jike over his compatriot Wang Hao in an exciting 4-2 final (7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5, 11-3).

Don's Nets & Edges mentions that the League will be looking for volunteers to help at this tournament, and also during the 'Ping' event coming to Liverpool in early June 2012, interested people should contact Don Davies or Mike Power, details in the handbook.



## Seating and ticket prices

Friday 28th September 2012		10.00 am
	ADULT	CONCESSION
LOWER TIER	£10.00	£5.00
UPPER TIER	£10.00	£5.00
Saturday 29th September 2012		12pm
	ADULT	CONCESSION
LOWER TIER	£15.00	£10.00
UPPER TIER	£15.00	£10.00
Sunday 30th September 2012		10.00 am
	ADULT	CONCESSION
LOWER TIER	£15.00	£10.00
UPPER TIER	£15.00	£10.00

CONCESSION -: Children in full time education  
Seniors 60 plus

All the above prices are after using the Promotional code ETTAMEM12 to reduce all prices by £5 for the ETTA registered membership

## **Playing System for the LIEBHERR 2011 Men's World Cup was -:**

1. The tournament will consist of 3 stages.
2. In the preliminary stage the 4 continental representatives from Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania shall compete for an Intercontinental Cup, played on a group basis with all the members of the group playing each other. The winner of this group shall join the remaining 15 players in the 1st stage.
3. Seeding shall be done according to the latest available World Ranking.
4. In the 1st stage the players will be divided into 4 equal groups, with all the members of a group playing each other, and in the 2nd stage the group winners and runners-up will compete in a knockout.
5. For the 1st stage, the highest-ranked player will be placed in Group A, the 2nd highest in Group B, the 3rd highest in Group C and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Group D. The remaining players will be drawn into the groups 4 at a time in ranking order.
6. If there are 2 players from the same Association, they will be drawn into separate groups but a 3rd

player from the same Association may be drawn into any group.

7. For the 2nd stage, the winners of Groups A and B will be placed in positions 1 and 8 respectively and the winners of groups C and D will be drawn between positions 4 and 5; the runners-up will be drawn into the remaining places, in opposite halves from the winners of the same groups. There will not be separation by Association.

8. In the semi-finals, the winner of the 1st quarterfinal will play the winner of the 2nd and the winner of the 3rd will play the winner of the 4th ; the winners of the semi-finals will play each other in the final, with the losers of the semi-finals playing each other for third place.

9. The tournament will be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.

10. All matches shall be the best of 7 games.

Prize money was 45,000usd for the winner down to 15,000usd for 4th place,

## **English National Championships**

2-4 March 2012  
Ponds Forge  
International Sports Centre  
Sheffield  
S1 2BP

Day	Adult	16+ Concession
Friday	Free	Free
Saturday	£6	£3
Sunday	£8	£4

£1 discount per ticket for club & school groups of 10+

All tickets include a programme  
Tickets available on the door or in advance from  
Vanda.Jones@etta.co.uk  
T: 01424 456210

## **The Liverpool Closed 2012**

Will be held at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, on  
Sunday March 11th.

Men's and Women's Singles.  
O/40's & O/50's Vets. Singles.  
2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Div. Singles.  
Open Doubles.

Competition for all capabilities.  
Compete in your own division  
and more.

Finals Night will take place on  
Monday 19th March  
At the CADWA Club

Entry forms obtained from Club Secretaries and  
can be downloaded from our two websites

With so many youngsters playing in the  
Liverpool League at all levels

This year could see one of the best  
Junior Singles Competition  
For many years

# League Tables as at 18th February 2012

<b>Division One</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	17	15	2	0	131
2	Crosby High B	17	14	1	2	129
3	Christ The King	16	11	3	2	106
4	Crosby High	16	11	1	4	95
5	Bath St Marine	16	8	1	7	91
6	Bath St Marine A	17	5	2	10	80
7	M/Side Police	15	8	2	5	79
8	Bootle YMCA	17	5	2	10	77
9	Cadwa	16	6	1	9	64
10	Crosby High A	16	4	0	12	57
11	Christ The King A	15	5	0	10	54
12	Fords A	16	3	2	11	49
13	Harold House	16	1	1	14	38
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Division Two</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Wavertree Lab	16	11	2	3	107
2	Bootle YMCA A	16	9	2	5	89
3	Bath St Marine B	14	9	1	4	87
4	Marconi	14	8	3	3	85
5	Cadwa A	15	7	5	3	85
6	M/Side Police A	16	8	2	6	84
7	Christ The King B	14	7	2	5	82
8	Harold House A	15	6	2	7	70
9	Marconi A	16	4	3	9	68
10	Wavertree Lab A	14	4	2	8	58
11	Crosby High C	14	3	2	9	53
12	Wavertree Lab B	16	1	0	15	32
13	Free	0	0	0	0	0
14	Harold House B	record expunged				

<b>Division Three</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine C	15	12	3	0	115
2	Bootle YMCA B	17	9	5	3	105
3	Harold House C	14	11	1	2	91
4	Marconi B	16	8	3	5	87
5	Maghull A	16	8	2	6	83
6	M/Side Police B	16	7	1	8	78
7	Arriva Nth West	15	7	1	7	76
8	Maghull	17	6	2	9	76
9	M/Side Police C	16	6	2	8	75
10	Bath St Marine D	15	6	2	7	70
11	Cadwa B	15	6	0	9	64
12	Cadwa C	17	4	1	12	58
13	Bath St Marine E	17	0	3	14	52
14	M/Side Police D	record expunged				

<b>Division Four</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Wavertree Lab C	17	16	1	0	133
2	Sefton Park	16	9	4	3	97
3	Bath St Marine F	16	11	2	3	96
4	Huntsman Wood	16	7	4	5	95
5	Wavertree Lab E	17	9	3	5	95
6	Arriva Nth West A	17	10	2	5	95
7	Cadwa D	17	8	4	5	93
8	Marconi C	16	7	3	6	78
9	Linacre	17	4	4	9	72
10	Wavertree Lab D	16	3	2	11	61
11	Maghull B	15	2	4	9	56
12	Maghull C	17	2	2	13	54
13	Bootle YMCA C	15	0	1	14	35
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Division Five</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Sefton Park A	17	17	0	0	150
2	Bootle YMCA D	16	10	2	4	105
3	Marconi D	16	12	1	3	103
4	Maghull D	15	11	2	2	102
5	Arriva Nth West B	15	10	1	4	96
6	Maghull F	17	6	4	7	74
7	Cadwa E	15	6	3	6	72
8	Bath St Marine G	16	3	5	8	67
9	Wavertree Lab F	16	4	2	10	64
10	Maghull E	16	3	5	8	63
11	M/Side Police E	16	3	3	10	50
12	Waterloo	16	1	1	14	46
13	Sefton Park B	17	2	3	12	46
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Fines to 16-02-11	No	Fine	Totals
Walk Overs Vets Cup	1	£6	£6
Ineligible Player	0	£0	
Player Short	21	£3	£63
Walk Overs League	3	£6	£18
Walk Overs Cup	2	£6	£12
Played Out of Order	3	1.50 PP	£9
Late Score Card	12	£3	£36
Total	42		£144

Fines to 18-2-12	No	Fine	Total
Late Score Card	7	£4	£28
Player Short	18	£3	£54
Walk Overs 3 A-Side	9	£9	£81
Walk Overs 4 A-Side	0	£12	£0
Walk Overs Cup 3 A-Side	4	£9	£36
Walk Overs Cup 4 A-Side	1	£12	£12
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Total	39		£211.00